

25X1

Approved For Release 2006/09/26 : CIA-RDP85T00875R001900010159-2

Approved For Release 2006/09/26 : CIA-RDP85T00875R001900010159-2

CIA/OER/S-05902-74

5 February 1974

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR:

ATTENTION :

SUBJECT : Availability of Soviet and East European  
Radios in Cuba

25X1

Attached is a rack-up and brief discussion of available  
information on Communist-made radios in use in Cuba. If you  
have further questions, please call [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

Chief,  
Machinery and Communications Branch  
USSR/Eastern Europe Division  
Office of Economic Research

Attachment:

Distribution: (S-5902)  
Orig. & 1 - Addressee w/att  
1 - D/OER w/att  
1 - St/CS w/att  
1 - St/P w/att ✓  
1 - St/ER w/att  
1 - Chief, D/U w/att  
2 - U/MC w/att

25X1

OER/U/MC: [redacted] (5 Feb 74)

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

ATTACHMENT

Availability of Soviet and East European Radios in Cuba

1. The data available on Soviet and East European radio receivers in use in Cuba is very fragmentary but we were able to pull together some information which may be of use to you. 25X1 Table 1 shows the only aggregate figures we have on radio imports by Cuba. In 1966, [redacted] Poland and East Germany began exporting vacuum tube radio receivers to Cuba. These radios were considered to be of very poor quality and in constant need of repair. Due to a shortage of spare parts and a lack of technical competence by the government repair shops, it was difficult to get these radios repaired. Table 2 shows some of the various types of East German and Polish radios known to be in use in Cuba during the mid-1960's. Where possible we have shown the bands each radio was capable of receiving and the price in US dollars. It would appear from Tables 1 and 2 [redacted] that beginning in 1969 the Cubans may have begun to rely primarily on the Soviet Union for the bulk of their radio 25X1 imports. Imports of Soviet radios in 1969 were more than double those in 1965 and in 1972 there was another large increase of 173% (over 1969).

2. We have no information on the types of radios which were exported by the USSR during 1965-1972. However, in 1973, Cuba contracted with the USSR for a radio and TV appliances factory to be commissioned in 1976-1977. In the initial stages, radios will be assembled from component parts supplied by the Soviet Union. In 1974, 80,000 Orbita transistor radios will be assembled in Cuba. Starting in 1975, the VEF-206 transistor radio will likewise be assembled there. The bands which these radios receive and the number of transistors and diodes which they contain are shown in Table 2. When the factory becomes operational, it will produce 300,000 transistor radios yearly, presumably including the Orbita and VEF-206 radios.

3. From the small sample shown in Table 2, we would estimate that most radios in Cuba can receive the medium and shortwave bands. Beginning in 1975 when the assembly of the VEF-206 is started, long wave broadcasts will also reach at least a portion of the Cuban population.

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2006/09/26 : CIA-RDP85T00875R001900010159-2

Table 1

Cuban Imports of Radio Receivers

<u>From</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
East Germany	N.A.*	N.A.	26,270	8,500	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
USSR	21,440	26,700	32,700	11,700	48,200	42,900	64,900	177,500

\* Data not available.

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2006/09/26 : CIA-RDP85T00875R001900010159-2

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Approved For Release 2006/09/26 : CIA-RDP85T00875R001900010159-2

**Radio Receivers Used in Cuba**

<u>East Germany</u>						<u>Number and Type of Bands Received</u>		<u>Price*</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>Name of Radio</u>	<u>LW</u>	<u>MW</u>	<u>SW</u>	<u>FM</u>					
Rostoc I		1	1						Not for sale since 1966.
Rostoc II		1	2						
Jilmenao 210		1	3						
Ilmenao 260		1	3	1					
Rossini		1	3	1	\$500.00				Not for sale since 1966.
Vagang					\$125.00				Multi-Band
<u>Poland</u>									
Nacional		1			\$ 58.00				One month average life expectancy.
Antillano		1	3		\$ 75.00				Not for sale since 1968.
Cristal		1		1	\$100.00				Not for sale since April 1968.
Cosmos		1	3	1	\$350.00				Not for sale since April 1968.
Orienta		1	1						

\* In US dollars.

-3-  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

Approved For Release 2006/09/26 : CIA-RDP85T00875R001900010159-2

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2006/09/26 : CIA-RDP85T00875R001900010159-2

Table 2

Radio Receivers Used in Cuba (continued)

USSR					
Number and Type of Bands Received					
Name of Radio	LW	MW	SW	FM	Price*
Orbita		2	1		
VEF-206	1	1	6		
					Notes
					Eight transistors, two diodes.
					Ten transistors, two diodes.

CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Release 2006/09/26 : CIA-RDP85T00875R001900010159-2